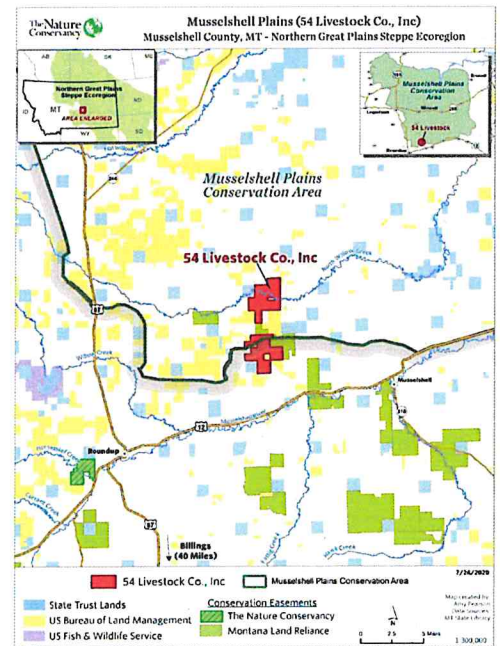


### Project Summary:

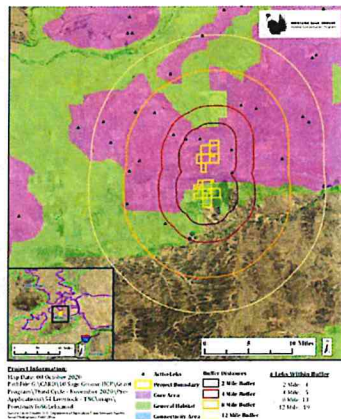
- Property is located in Musselshell County about 16 miles northeast of Roundup;
- Perpetual conservation easement;
- Approximately 6,660 acres



The "Big Wall" a unique geologic feature of the 54 Livestock property



## 54 Livestock Co., Inc. Conservation Easement Project



Sagebrush grassland on 54 Livestock in the Musselshell Core Area

### Importance for Sage Grouse Conservation:

- 4,016 acres in the Musselshell Core Area;
- 2,641 acres in general habitat;
- 4 leks within 2 miles and 9 leks within 8 miles;
- Total credits generated = 46,616.78

## 54 Livestock Co., Inc. Conservation Easement Project





*High value brood rearing habitat - spring feeding into North Willow Creek*

#### Property Management That Benefits Sage Grouse and Other Wildlife:

- Completed NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative Contract - installed pipelines, stockwater tanks, and fences;
- Deferred rotation grazing system with stocking rates established by NRCS;
- High collision risk fences close to leks have been marked;
- In-progress to seed 292 acres of cropland to a native species mix in 2021.

## **54 Livestock Co., Inc. Conservation Easement Project**



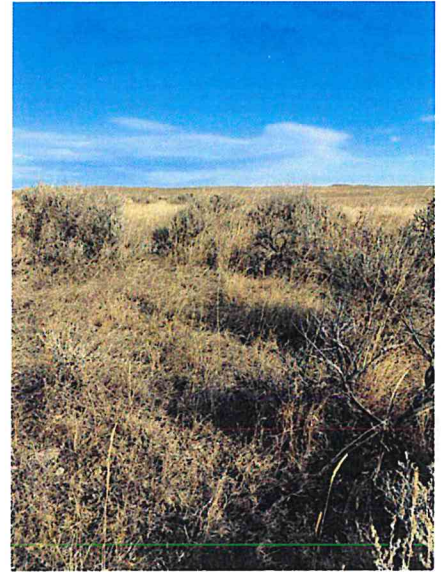
#### Project History & Community Impact:

- 2018 - Identified as a potential grassbank project by Winnett ACES (ACES);
- 2019 - ACES operates as leased grassbank - 5 rancher operations involved;
- 2020 – Strategy shifts to grazing collaborative. Easement is key to financial sustainability to remain as a Montana family-based ranching operation. Current owners want to sell to collaborative ASAP. Working to close easement in March 2021, which will facilitate the fee sale.

## **54 Livestock Co., Inc. Conservation Easement Project**

Request for Funding:

- Estimated Easement Value: \$2 million;
- Funding secured: \$1.5 million NRCS ALE;
- MTSGHCP funding requested for easement purchase: \$500,000 + \$19,000 for appraisal;
- TNC paying project costs, staff time, expenses, and for seed to restore the cropland to native grassland.



*High residual grassland cover for nesting sage-grouse*